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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 23 March 1951

SUBJECT Volkspolizei Bereitschaft No 211/17
in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken

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1. VP Bereitschaft No 211/17 was in a newly constructed settlement in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken prior to 16 January 1951. The houses had been converted into troop quarters. The entire area was surrounded by a board fence and by watchtowers erected about November 1950.
2. The VP Bereitschaft was a cadre unit with an actual strength of about 1,500 men and an authorized strength of 2,000. Except for 30 enlisted personnel, the unit was composed of NCOs and officers exclusively. The Bereitschaft was organized into four infantry kommandos with an authorized strength of 300 men each, in addition to artillery, AAA, AT, close-combat tank destroyers, engineer, motorcycle and tank Abteilungen of 100 men each. This composition of a VP Bereitschaft allegedly conforms to the pattern planned for all VP Bereitschaften in the reorganization in progress since mid-November 1950. *
3. Leading personnel of the Bereitschaft included:

VP Inspekteur Wagner, (fnu)

as commanding officer,

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VP Oberrat Thielach, (Frm)

- 1st deputy commander and PK chief

VP Oberrat Potonsen, (fnu)

- 2nd deputy commander and chief of staff

VP Oberrat Saenger, (fnu)

- director of training.

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VP Kommandeur Schielke, (fmu)

- in charge of technical matters.

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VP Kommandeur Pietzow or Pietzuck
(fmu)

In charge of ordnance materiel and

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[illegible]

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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constructions, [redacted]

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VP Rat Volk, (fnu) - chief of the signal section.

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VP Kommissar Roth, (fnu) - chief of the personnel section

VP Kommissar Wohlfeld, (fnu) - head of the unit's orderly room

VP Rat Schwarzmeyer, (fnu) - attached to the PK section

VP Rat Kolbensee, (fnu) - attached to the PK section

VP Oberrat Bitter, (fnu) - liaison officer to the Soviet Army,

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VP Rat Hoffmann, (fnu) - chief of the administrative section,

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VP Oberkommissar Zahn, (fnu) - deputy chief of the administrative section

VP Oberkommissar Falkenhagen, (fnu) - finance officer

VP Oberkommissar Fluegge, (fnu) - in charge of clothing and equipment

VP Oberkommissar Pohnitz, (fnu) - in charge of fuels and lubricants

VP Kommissar Bartel, (fnu) - billeting officer

VP Kommissar Schulz, (fnu) - motor officer

VP Kommissar Hoffmann, (fnu) - mess officer

VP Meister Wistuba, (fnu) - ordnance materiel officer

Four Soviet liaison officers were also attached to the Bereitschaft headquarters, including one ranking as VP Inspekteur, one as VP Kommandeur, and two as VP Oberrate. There were also four interpreters, including VP Kommissar Kudera, (fnu), and VP-Oberwachtmeister Adler, (fnu). **

4. The Bereitschaft was equipped with one Soviet 122-mm gun and one Soviet 76.2-mm AT gun which only officers were trained to use; medium and light mortars; model 34, 42 and Maxim machine guns; model 98-K carbines; model 44 submachine guns; some German and Soviet automatic rifles; models Walther and Mauser 7.65-mm pistols. By order of the HVA, all models 08 and 38 pistols had to be turned in late in December 1950. The weapons of the Sonderabteilungen were to arrive not prior to the end of January or the beginning of February 1951.
5. The only ammunition available at the time was infantry ammunition which was stored in small ammunition bunkers. Two trucks loaded with explosives were dispatched to the VP school in Priemer Wald in late December 1950.

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6. The engineer equipment of the deactivated 9th and 10th VP ~~Bereitschaften~~ in Brandenburg, including assault boats, pontoons and bridge-building equipment, was being kept at Peetz Lake. *
7. The VP ~~Bereitschaft~~ was equipped with ZIS trucks [redacted] [redacted] Horch trucks [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Ford truck [redacted] [redacted] BMW car [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] used by the commanding officer of the unit; Opel-Olympia car [redacted] used by a Soviet officer; Opel-Olympia cars VP [redacted] one 1.3-liter Opel car [redacted] Java motorcycle [redacted] and Avo motorcycle [redacted] The ~~Bereitschaft~~ had a filling station of its own. According to an order of the HVA issued in early January 1951, monthly gasoline rations were issued on the following basis: per truck-gasoline for 2,000 km (40 liters per 100 km); Per passenger car-gasoline for 1,500 to 2,000 km (20 liters per 100 km); Per motorcycle-gasoline for 1,500 to 2,000 km (5 liters per 100 km).
8. Besides theoretical instructions in tactics, and instruction relating to the various branches of service, infantry training was the only training given in the field. The training schedule was intended to train platoon and company leaders. A small training field was located 1 km east of the quarters of the ~~Bereitschaft~~.
9. The VP ~~Bereitschaft~~ in Hohenstuecken provided administrative ~~services~~ for two VP units, one in Kirchmoeser and one in Treuenbrietzen. ***
10. The central supply depot in Berlin was to be decentralized. A Landes-versorgungslager (Land Supply Depot) (LVL) was to be established in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken.

* [redacted] Comment. The 9th ~~Bereitschaft~~ (Inf) and the 10th VP ~~Bereitschaft~~ (Engr) were quartered in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken prior to November 1950. According to the present report, these units were deactivated in the course of reorganization of the Volkspolizei. The newly organized cadre ~~Bereitschaft~~ is reported for the first time. In its strength and organization it seems to be similar to the Soviet Army cadre regiments stationed in the Soviet Zone of Germany prior to 1949. It is therefore possible that the HVA, by merging VP ~~Bereitschaften~~, has organized cadre ~~Bereitschaften~~, which at a propitious and carefully prepared moment, possibly after the conclusion of the Four-Power conference, can be brought to mechanized regiment strength by recalling those police who are now working in industrial plants, or by drafting police recruits.

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** [redacted] Comment. First identification of these officers in Brandenburg. However, since VP ~~Kommandeur~~ Schielke, (fmu), was previously identified as commandant of the VP school in Prenzlau, [redacted] the information on the officers seems credible. [redacted] It is therefore probable that the reorganization of the Volkspolizei was accompanied by an extensive turnover in officer personnel.

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*** Comment. According to available information covering a period of up to the fall of 1950, the 2nd VP Bereitschaft (Inf) of Land Saxony-Anhalt was located in Kirchmoeser, and the 8th VP Bereitschaft (Arty) of Land Brandenburg in Treuenbrietzen. It is not yet clear whether these units also were reorganized. The fact that they were assigned to the VP Bereitschaft in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken for administration would support the belief that a cadre unit for a mechanized or infantry regiment which is to be organized later has been established in Brandenburg.

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